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Weekly Weather Crop Report

Week Ending: March 31, 1996

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 2.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending March 31, 1996. The main farming activities for the week included planting corn and land preparation. Cool, damp weather continues to delay land preparation and planting. Maturity of wheat has been delayed due to the recent freeze. Catlemen continue to feed hay and anxiously wait on pastures to begin to grow. Fruit and vegetable growers are accessing their damages from freezing temperatures. Soil moisture conditions were rated 3 percent short, 43 percent adequate and 54 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1995	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	36	31	34	28	1	17	52	29	1
	Emerged	14	7	9	12	---	---	---	---	---
Sorghum	Planted	1	---	2	4	---	---	---	---	---
Wheat	Jointing	74	60	75	66	1	20	49	29	1
	Heading	1	0	2	3	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons	Planted	13	11	20	18	---	---	---	---	---
Cattle						7	15	40	32	6
Pasture						7	29	40	22	2

County Agent Comments

"Cool, damp weather continues to delay land preparation and pasture recovery. Cotton producers are uncertain about their future. Fruit growers are accessing their damage from the freezing temperatures."

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss County

"Conditions in the county are in poor shape for planting or livestock because of cold weather and excess rain."

— Tim Needham, Tippah County

"Rain has stopped planting and land preparation. Corn is slowly emerging. We need a farm bill so planning can be finalized for cotton and rice."

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower County

"Our farmers are still wrestling with finance-related matters. This has become the major activity in farming, replacing the production aspects."

— Ernest H. Flint, Attala County

"Rain and cold temperatures in March did not allow any corn to be planted. Catlemen are anxiously waiting for grass to grow. Hay is almost non-existent."

— Walter Alford, Montgomery County

"Heavy rainfalls brought farming activities to a halt. Ryegrass fields are finally beginning to show some growth. Cattle producers are feeding high energy blocks to compensate for hay shortages."

— Mike Skipper, Winston County

"As warmer weather stabilizes, farmers will evaluate early planted corn to determine replanting needs due to several snaps of freezing weather since February."

— Lamar Adams, Walthall County

"Excessive rain and cold weather have resulted in damage to winter vegetable crops. About 1,000 acres of corn is being replanted."

— Kerry Johnson, George County

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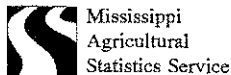
Weather Summary from March 25, 1996 to March 31, 1996 For Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Ave Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Ave	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Ave	
1. Upper Delta													
Clarksdale	72	34	50	56	-6	1.70	+0.29	3	3.75	59	44	52	
Cleveland	74	34	52			1.70		4	3.81				
Tunica													
Extreme/Average	74	34	51	56	-5	1.70	+0.29	4	3.78	59	44	52	
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	74	31	48	53	-5	2.24	+0.81	3	4.70	61	40	51	
Memphis	68	32	49	56	-8	2.28	+0.89	2	4.76				
Oxford	75	34	51	54	-3	1.97	+0.59	2	5.44				
Extreme/Average	75	31	49	54	-5	2.16	+0.76	2	4.97	61	40	51	
3. Northeast													
Booneville	75	33	51	55	-4	3.11	+1.65	5	7.08				
Corinth	75	31	52	56	-4	1.90	+0.50	5	4.76				
Iuka	74	30	49			1.85		4	7.49				
Pontotoc	75	34	50	56	-6	2.03	+0.61	4	4.97	66	45	54	0.21
Tupelo	70	37	51	56	-5	2.34	+0.92	6	4.59				
Verona	77	36	51			2.24		6	2.98	62	42	51	0.09
Extreme/Average	77	30	51	56	-5	2.25	+0.82	5	6.31	66	42	52	0.15
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	76	36	51	58	-7	1.15	-0.27	1	2.32	68	53	59	
Greenwood	78	39	55	58	-3	1.53	+0.20	2	2.59				
Rolling Fork	77	37	52			1.61	+0.12	1	3.33	70	53	61	
Stoneville													
Yazoo City	77	41	57	60	-2	1.72	+0.45	6	3.49				
Extreme/Average	78	36	54	59	-5	1.50	+0.12	3	2.93	70	53	60	
5. Central													
Carthage	74	38	56	59	-3	2.27	+0.76	5	5.62				
Jackson	71	41	56	59	-4	2.63	+1.41	4	7.51				
Winona	75	38	52	55	-3	1.49	+0.13	3	3.21				
Extreme/Average	75	38	55	58	-3	2.13	+0.77	4	5.45				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	80	42	55			2.31	+0.88	4	6.13	60	41	51	
Columbus	75	41	54			3.06		5	5.76				
State University	78	39	52	57	-5	2.49	+1.12	3	5.55	68	45	53	
Extreme/Average	80	39	54	57	-3	2.62	+1.22	4	5.81	68	41	52	
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	75	39	54			2.84		3	7.00	66	53	59	
Natchez	78	40	58	62	-3	2.57	+0.59	5	6.25				
Oakley	75	39	53			2.58	+0.99	3	5.79	67	47	56	
Vicksburg	74	39	55			4.04		4	5.19				
Extreme/Average	78	39	55	62	-6	3.01	+1.22	4	6.06	67	47	58	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	76	43	60	62	-2	2.72	+0.70	6	5.90				
McComb	75	41	60	60	-1	1.67	-0.23	4	2.98				
Extreme/Average	76	41	60	61	-1	2.20	+0.24	5	4.44				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	74	40	57			1.99		4	5.15	74	52	59	
Hattiesburg	75	42	60	61	-1	4.17	+2.19	7	7.29				
Laurel													
Meridian	68	42	55	59	-4	3.01	+1.00	5	8.48				
Newton	77	40	54	59	-5	2.45	+0.56	3	8.66	63	46	53	0.10
Extreme/Average	77	40	56	60	-3	2.91	+0.95	5	7.39	74	46	56	0.10
10. Coastal													
Bay St. Louis	78	45	59			3.80		4	4.41				
Biloxi	77	41	60	63	-3	5.64	+3.95	5	6.74				
Gulfport	75	46	60	63	-3	6.66	+5.06	5	9.48				
Pascagoula	69	46	59	63	-4	6.59	+5.23	4	7.43				
Poplarville	76	43	58	63	-4	1.37	-0.45	3	4.18	75	53	61	0.14
Extreme/Average	78	41	59	63	-4	4.81	+3.19	4	6.45	75	53	61	0.14
State	80	30	54	58	-4	2.53	+0.96	4	5.26	75	40	55	0.12

Abbreviations: DFN = Departure from Normal

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